

Mr. Fidel Castro Tries to Surrender



Arthur Hoppe

IT ISN'T generally known, but for the past two weeks Fidel Castro has been trying to surrender.

For some reason, Mr. Castro gained the impression the White House was littered with safes, satchels, cartons and shoe boxes stuffed with \$100 bills. "We can no longer resist a nation," he sadly told his people, "as wealthy as that."

So he placed a dramatic call to The White House. "Connect me," he said grandly, "to whomsoever is in charge."

"I'm sorry, sir," said the switchboard operator, "but that position is out of service at this time."

"Then give me the President. I will speak directly to the President."

"I'm sorry, sir, the President's temporarily disconnected. But we all hope he'll pull himself together soon."

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LOOK, this is a matter of top importance. I will speak to a member of his General Staff — Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Kleindeinst. . . .

"Those numbers have been permanently disconnected, sir. If you call Directory Assistance . . ."

"You mean the entire General Staff has resigned? Who's taken sole command, Admiral Doenitz?"

"No, sir, General Haig. But he's very busy."

"Reading 'Seven Days in May'? All right, I suppose it's a legal matter. Give me the President's trusted counsel, John Dean III."

"I'm sure the President would love to give him to you sir — if he could lay his hands on him. Would you care to be connected with Martha Mitchell? I have her number."

"I called to talk, not listen. I suppose I'll have to settle for a subordinate. Give

me Mr. Chapin, Mr. Magruder, Mr. Krogh, Mr. Young, Mr. . . ."

"I'm sorry, sir. They can no longer be reached at this number. They've resigned."

"I'm getting that way myself. Put me through, then, to The White House press secretary's office. I wish to make a dramatic announcement."

"I'm afraid all you'll get is their recording service, sir. It says, 'The President doesn't know anything about anything. No comment. Please go away.'"

"Wait, I have it. Transfer me to the CIA. I've had a lot of dealings with CIA."

"Is this an overseas call, sir? I'm afraid the CIA no longer handles overseas calls. They're too busy with domestic matters — unless you'd like to burglarize a psychiatrist's office?"

"Why would I do that?"

"Nobody knows, sir. Not around here."

"Wait! If the CIA is handling domestic matters, I obviously want the director of the FBI."

"So does the FBI, sir. In fact, a director is at the head of their Ten Most Wanted List."

"Madre de Dios! This is Fidel Castro I want to surrender!"

"Oh, surrender? Then you'll want the Justice Department, sir. But no matter how much you're willing to talk, I doubt they'll grant you immunity."

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FIVE DAYS later, Mr. Castro landed on Key West to begin his historic march on Washington. His avowed goal is to take over The White House — on the grounds that no one else is using it.

Thus far, the nation has not been alerted to the danger — the news media being fully occupied with other matters.